

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. XXIII. No. 21.] LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1813. [Price 1s.

737]

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

NORTHERN WAR.—BATTLE OF LUTZEN.

—This battle is the *most fatal* that has taken place since the beginning of this twenty years' war. It has not been the most bloody; it has not ended in the most signal triumph of the French; it has not spread so much havoc and so much disgrace amongst the enemy; but, still it is the most fatal; because the result was *less expected* than a defeat ever was, upon any former occasion. —I have been, for nearly four months, a most mortified spectator of the delusion practised upon this "*most thinking nation*," who have been made to believe, as firmly as they believe in their existence, that the Emperor Napoleon was *down for ever*; that it was impossible for him again to collect an army in sufficient force to dare to face the allies in the North; that, in short, he was about to experience the fate of a rebel and an usurper; and that, in a few months, we might expect to hear of his having suffered an ignominious death. —I endeavoured to put the public on their guard against being the dupe of these delusions; but, I must confess, that, even amongst persons usually rational in their way of calculating, I found very few indeed to coincide with me in opinion. —It was manifest, I thought, that the whole question turned upon the success that Napoleon would meet with in raising an army in France. That he appears to have done; and, having again an army of Frenchmen, all other things he will obtain. —I do not see what is now to arrest his progress, unless, indeed, the *people* of Germany can be roused against him; and, I must, from what has passed, greatly doubt of that. There are now the same motives to opposing him that there were before, and I cannot see why they should now be more efficacious than they formerly were. *A people*, and only a *people*, can, in my opinion, effectually resist his power; and, until I see a *people* hearty in the cause, I shall continue to believe, that he will ultimately succeed. —And now what do those persons think, who have been running

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New York, March 4, 1813.

NOTICE TO BRITISH SUBJECTS.

Marshal's Office of the United States of America for the District of New York, at the City of New York, March 4, 1813.

By virtue of the power vested in me, and special instructions from the proper authority, all Alien Enemies, engaged in commerce, and residing and being within forty miles of tide-water, or the margins of the Hudson and East Rivers, and Long Island Sound, in the district of New York, and particularly those in the City of New York, are hereby required forthwith to retire beyond that distance from tide-water, and the margins of the Hudson and East River and the Sound. Passports for their departure will be given at the Marshal's Office, and the places of their residence therein designated. Persons of the above description, who refuse or neglect to comply with this requisition, will be immediately taken into custody.—And all alien enemies, not engaged in commerce, and residing and being within 40 miles of tide-water, or the margins of the Hudson East Rivers, and the Sound, in said district, are required immediately to apply to the Marshal for permission to remain where they are, which permission will be granted when it satisfactorily appears that their intentions towards the United States are friendly, and that the indulgence and hospitality which have been extended to them have not been abused or misapplied.—Also, Alien enemies, of every occupation or profession, who have arrived in the city of New York, from a foreign place, since the declaration of war, are required, without delay, to retire into the interior of the country, beyond the distance above-mentioned. If the different requisitions required by this notice are not unconditionally complied with, vigorous measures will be taken against all those to whom it has reference.

PETER CURTIUS,
Marshal of the District of New York.

NORTHERN WAR.

Head-quarters, Zubst, April 7, 1813.
I hasten humbly to inform your Excel-

lency of the happy occurrences of the 5th April, with the intent of relieving the good citizens of Berlin from the dread and fear they entertained of possibly again seeing the enemy within their walls.—General Von Borstell, with his detached corps, had already advanced as far as Wahletz, for the purpose of surrounding Magdeburg on the right bank of the Elbe; but, on the 2d of April, being attacked by a superior force, he, according to his previous instructions, retreated back to Nedlitz, but covered the roads to Burg and Gommern by Cossacks.—On the 5th of April the enemy obliged General Von Borstell to fall back to Gevena (on the road to Gortzke), and forced the Cossacks past Lutzkau and towards Burg.—As I had received certain information that the Viceroy of Italy commanded this expedition in person, with a corps d'armee of four divisions, about 22 or 24,000 men strong, among which were 3,000 cavalry, 40 pieces of artillery, not only causing the country round Magdeburgh to be plundered (on the right bank of the Elbe), but likewise, not knowing that my corps was so near him, intended making an attempt upon Berlin; I determined on attacking him with my whole strength, to drive him back with my whole force.—For this purpose, on the 4th April, I concentrated the force of General Von York, near Zorest, that of Lieutenant-General Von Berg, at three German miles from thence, in the village of Liezo, and fixed my head-quarters at Zorest. I directed General Von Borstell, and likewise General Von Bulow, who had, so early as the 4th April, arrived at Ziesa, to push as far forward as the enemy would permit; but that they should on the 5th, when they would be informed by a cannonade of my having commenced an attack, fall on the enemy with the greatest impetuosity.—On the 5th, in the morning, Lieutenant-General Von York's corps advanced to Leitzkeu, and that of Lieutenant-General Von Berg to Ladeburg.—Lieutenant-General Von Borstell had advanced towards Makun, and Lieutenant-General Von Bulow to Hohenzias. At two o'clock in the afternoon, Lieutenant-General Von York was obliged to send a van-guard towards Gammern, and Lieutenant-General Von Berg to do the same to this place.
(To be continued.)

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Napoleon?—But, besides this, will Mr. Perry undertake to show, that, in the present internal state of this country, peace with France is *possible*? If she be left in possession of Holland, I defy the Ministers, under the *present system*, to reduce by peace the expenses of the country; and, if the taxes cannot be reduced, peace would only have the effect of sending out of the country many of those who now smart under the taxes.—Are the Whigs ready to give us a reform of the parliament? If they are not, to talk about peace is a mere mockery.—The hireling prints are, as usual, making great efforts to cause the public to believe, that Napoleon has, upon this occasion, gained *no victory*. He has advanced 50 miles, however, according to their own acknowledgment. But, this thinking people have long been in the habit of regarding *his* advances as no proof at all of triumph; while those of his enemies are decided proofs of triumph.—It is useless, however, to make these observations for about the thousandth time. They do, perhaps, but little good. The public ear is filled with the falsehoods of the hired press; and *suffering* alone can make way for a belief of the truth.—What is most worthy of remark upon this occasion is, that *the people of France* seem to partake, as much as ever, in the feelings of the Emperor. That is the main point; for, after all, France herself, that fruitful source of military talent and military courage, is what he must depend upon. When the French people resolved, that the Rhine and the Alps should be the boundary of their territory, how soon they extended their sway to the Rhine and the Alps! It is the *genius* and *taste* of *the people of France*, which do every thing. It is not on brute force that Napoleon depends. It is on the skill of his officers; their genius for war; their quick-sightedness; their ability in turning every circumstance to their advantage; and the great mass of like ability, though in a different way, amongst the ranks of his army.—Then, he has the vast advantage of being disembarrassed by *aristocratical and oligarchical interests*. No *family* influence prevails with him. He is not, by any such shackles, confined to a few, out of whom to select his officers. He has a whole army; he has all France, to choose out of. All the youth of France are brought, as it were, one after another, before him, for the purpose of giving him an opportunity to select the fittest persons to command in his armies. He chooses, too, after *experience*. Merit, real merit; real ability to as-

sist him, is the only recommendation to elevation in his service.—It is, therefore, no wonder that he succeeds, and less wonder that he is admired by his army and by the people, seeing that he can have no temptation to promote an unworthy person.—The *Courier* and *Times* news-papers, especially the latter, has, for many months past, amused their readers with accounts of *insurrections in France*. We now know, that these were falsehoods hatched by themselves, or by others for them, who had their views to answer. Indeed, all men of any political information knew, at the time, that they were falsehoods; but, the mass of the people believed the accounts; and, as the accounts have never been contradicted, they do still believe them. The people in this country, in general, think that Napoleon is hated in France as much as they hate him. If you were to tell them the contrary, they would either not attend to you, or think that you were ignorant of what you were talking about. They believe, almost to a man, that Napoleon is held, in France, in deadly abhorrence; that he is obliged to resort to all sorts of precautions to prevent himself from being assassinated; that he has spies in every hole and corner; that no man dares open his lips without danger to his life; that there are soldiers every where to shoot at the people, and that these soldiers, having been forced into the service, hate him even more than the rest of the nation do; that France is filled with Bastiles; that any man may be clapped into prison, or shot, or hanged, at a minute's warning, without any trial; that there are no laws in France except military laws; that there are no courts of justice; and, in short, that the people are the most wretched slaves, the most miserable, starving, bare-boned creatures that imagination can trace.—And, why do the “thinking people” believe all this? Because there are a hundred or two of news-papers to tell it them, once every day, or, at least, once every week, all the year round. Burke said: “let a man tell you his story once a-day for a year, and, at the end of the year he is your master.”—The Country-papers are, for the most part, the mere echoes of the hired prints in London. They are, in general, even more dependent. They depend for existence on their advertisements. These follow the politics. The magistrates, the Clergy, the Sheriffs, the Tax-Commissioners, the Navy and Transport Boards, the Barrack-office, the War-office, and the numerous other sources of adver-

tisements, all dependent on the Ministry of the day, draw almost the whole of the Country-papers into the Government vortex. So that, if the editors were, as some of them are, well-informed men, the interests of the concern must be attended to; and thus are the Country people, who read only the weekly abstract of the London papers, kept in as complete ignorance of the truth, as far as relates to Napoleon and his subjects, as are the people of Otaheite. In short, it is impossible to form an idea of ignorance more complete.—It is thus that they are always found on the side of those who are for war with Buonaparté. They are made to believe, that he is a mere devil in human shape; and, that it is his serious intention to come here with an army to murder all the people. They believe, that he is a sort of wholesale murderer; that he delights in the shedding of human blood; that he has butchered thousands with his own hands; and, looking upon him in this light, how is it to be expected, that they can ever think of peace with him? —If you were to tell them about the codes of laws that he has formed and put in force; about his institution of schools for the education of the children of labourers and mechanics; about his vast improvements in roads and canals; about the flourishing state of agriculture since his exaltation; about his unbounded encouragement of the arts and sciences; about his infinite pains to enrich the public libraries and seminaries of learning; about all, or any of, his acts of this kind, they would, if they believed you, let your statement in at one ear and out at the other.—Their minds are choked up. They cannot, and they will not see in him any thing but a ferocious, a bloody tyrant, hated even more in France than he is in England.—If you were to ask them how it happens, that, if he be so universally hated in France, he can leave France for so long a time as he does without risking his throne; if you ask them how he can take away so many soldiers, if his government at home depend wholly on soldiers; if you were to ask them how he trusts himself with an army, composed entirely of conscripts, whom he has forced, in chains, as we are told, to form themselves into regiments; if you were to ask them, how he could force them, if all his soldiers hated him; if you were to ask them, how he comes to find, in those men who so hate him, and whom he has collected by the means of chains; if you were to ask them, how he comes to

find, in such men, soldiers ready to risk their lives for him, soldiers to beat his enemies: if you were to put these questions to the good thinking country people in England, they would first stare at you; they would then grin; and they would, if they gave you any answer at all, say that *Bony was a scoundrel*, and that they hoped that the Russians would finish him. While the more cunning and wicked part of them would call you a *friend of Buonaparté*. —This is the answer you would get. You would get no other; and on they would go again to call him a butcher and a robber, and speak of him as wishing to get hither to rob and murder us.—Were it not for the base press of this country, the people never could have been so deceived as they have been and still are. Nine out of ten of them never read the *official accounts* from France. They read only the abstract of the editor; and this he knows very well, otherwise he would not venture to make that abstract, as he generally does, and say just the contrary of what the accounts contain. He knows, that men of sense and information will express their wonder at his impudence, and their contempt for his venality; but, he also knows, they are a very small minority; that his endeavours will generally succeed; that he has the fears and the hopes of the herd with him; and, which is the main thing, the falsehood is profitable to him; more so than the truth would be.—When one considers, therefore, the means that are made use of, one ceases to wonder at the delusion which prevails at the end of twenty years. One ceases to wonder, that the same nation, who were so long persuaded, that they could not preserve their property or their religion while France was a Republic, are now persuaded that the danger is not less imminent when France is become again a Monarchy. One ceases to wonder, that the same nation, who cried out against liberty and patriotism while the French cried out for them, should now think it wise and just to carry on a war for what they are made to believe are liberty and patriotism.—The whole lies in these few words: the people of this country feel most grievously the burdens they have to bear; but, *the press makes them believe, that, unless Napoleon can be overset, they will have to suffer more than they now suffer*.—So long as this belief can be upheld, the majority of the people will be for the war; and, it will be upheld until their suffering shall be so great as to

shake this tenet of their political faith. —If Napoleon succeed in reaching Petersburg, which I think not impossible, it would make an impression on the merchants and manufacturers; but, very little upon the farmers, whose corn would sell the higher, and who would still see the war carried on with pleasure. There are *some few* of them, who calculate upon better principles; but not many; and the majority would still cry, *war!* —It seems to me, that the burning of Moscow and the consequent retreat of the French armies will have been the cause of adding some years to the length of the war upon the Continent; but, I do not think, that either that or any events now to come, upon the Continent, can have any effect at all as to the producing of peace with us. My opinion is, that, unless we have a *reform at home*, we cannot remain at peace while Napoleon retains any power at all; that we must *reform*, or *overthrow* him, or that we cannot have peace.

AMERICAN WAR.—This war, as appears by advices from America, has been further marked by our success by land and our failure by sea. I will not call it disgrace, or defeat; but, an American Sloop of War has now defeated an English Sloop of War for the second time. So that, owing to some cause or other, the American Navy, upon equal terms, really seems to have gained the superiority.—In the mean while, however, it is stated, that, through the means of the *mediation of Russia*, an opening for a negociation for peace is likely to take place. But, from the language of our vile news-papers, the editors of which appear to hate the Americans for no other cause than that they are not slaves, little hope seems to exist of a happy result. The article, to which I allude, was in the following words:—
 “ Captain Bedford, as we stated yesterday, has brought the official notification of an offer on the part of Russia to mediate between this country and America.
 “ *We hope it will be refused*; indeed we are sure it will. We have the highest respect for the Russian Government, the warmest admiration of its prowess, but we have a love for our naval pre-eminence that cannot bear to have it even touched by a foreign hand. Russia too can hardly be supposed to be very adverse to the principles of the armed neutrality, and that idea alone would be sufficient to make us decline the offer. But without

“ discussing that point we must make our stand upon this—*never to commit our naval rights to the mediation of any power.* This is the flag we must nail to the national mast, and go down rather than strike it.—Before the war commenced, concession might have been proper; we always thought it unwise. But *the hour of concession and of compromise is passed*; America has rushed unnecessarily and unnaturally into war, and she must be made to feel the effects of her folly and injustice. Peace must be the consequence of *punishment*, and retraction of her insolent demands must *precede* negociation. The thunder of our cannon must first strike terror into the American shores, and Great Britain must be seen and felt in all the majesty of her might, from Boston to Savannah, from the Lakes of Canada to the Mouths of the Mississippi.—And before this article goes forth to the world, her cannon have been heard and her power felt. The clamorous demagogues of America, the turbulent democrats, the noisy advocates for war with us, the pretended patriots of America and the real *partisans* of France, assume now another tone. Their papers no longer speak the language of boast and menace. *Fear* pervades their towns on the sea coast—*Alarm* prevails in all quarters. They are more intent upon removing their property than in making head against the danger; and though they boasted that they would support Government with all their means and resources, with their treasures and their blood, the Government cannot, in the first year of the war, raise a loan of Four Millions sterling! These are the immediate consequences of a war entered into to gratify the passions of hatred and envy of England, and to propitiate France.”—And, this is the language of *peace*, is it? It would seem, that writers like this feared nothing so much as an end to that war, which has already brought more disgrace upon the British Navy, than all the wars in which we were ever before engaged. It would really seem, that these men were paid to endeavour to cause an American Navy to be created. What other object they can have in view, in thus goading the Americans on to hostility and hatred, I cannot conceive.—I am sure, that the *Times* news-paper, by its senseless abuse of Mr. Madison and the Congress, and its insolent and contemptuous language towards the American peo-

ple, did much in producing this fatal war. Paine has said, that it is the *last feather* that breaks the horse's back; and, would it be any wonder, if this base print, by that insolence, those taunting menaces, in which it dealt a few months before the war was declared, was the *last feather* upon the occasion?—It spoke of the Americans and their navy in a strain of contempt not to be endured. It told them, that their boasted *Navy* should be towed into Halifax in a month from the date of their declaration of war. It said, that it hated *other* enemies of England; but that Mr. Madison and his nation were unworthy of any thing but contempt.—It was impossible for any nation to put up with this. Libels the most atrocious were published against Mr. Madison and all his brother officers in the government. The Naval Officers of America were spoken of as if they were dogs.—In that country *the people* have something to say as to public affairs; and, is it any wonder, that such publications should produce an effect amongst them, who read every thing, and who well understand what they read?—The President, we find, has instantly, and with great avidity, accepted the mediation of Russia. He is a very plain man. Wears, or used to wear, a grey coat, and his no-powdered hair very smooth. He had no big wig, nor any gowns, or any other fine thing upon him. But, he seems to know very well what he is about.—Indeed, all he has to know, is, what *the people wish*, and that he knows by their votes. He knows, that they hate war, as the great and fruitful parent of taxation and arbitrary power; and that, to please them, he must avail himself of every thing that offers even a chance of putting an end to the war upon just and honourable terms.—But, as you see, our hirelings exclaim against the acceptance of any mediation; even the mediation of Russia, who has committed her very fleet to our hands. For once, let us hope, that these men do not speak the language of the government. If we refuse the mediation of our own ally in the war; if we refuse the mediation of that power, who, we say, is about to deliver Europe and us from all the fears about Buonaparté, what will that power, what will the world say of our cause?—We are not, it seems, “to commit our *naval rights* to the mediation of any power.” But, this is not proposed. The Americans do not dispute any thing heretofore acknowledged by them, or contended for by us, as a *right*.

—The thing we contend for is, the practice of *impressing persons* on board neutral ships on the *high seas*. This the Americans deny to be a *right*; they say, that it never was before practised, or contended for, or claimed, by any belligerent nation; they say, that, by no writer on public law; by no principle ever laid down by any such writer; by no recognition of any power; by no practice, by no assertion of ours, is this act to be justified. In short, they say, that it has neither law, precedent, nor reason for its basis.—If they assert, in this respect, what is not true, why not *prove* it? Why not cite us the book, the treaty, the public document, the principle, the precedent, upon which we ground this practice? No one attempts to do this; and, until it be done, what impudence is it to say that we possess such a right?—Agreeably to all the principles of jurisprudence, when a man claims a right to do that which is, on the face of the thing, a trespass upon another man, he must first *prove* his right. There may be in John a right to pass across the field of James; but, having now, for the first time, begun to exercise this right, it is incumbent upon him to *prove* it in the way of defence against an action of trespass; and, if he cannot prove it; if he can show neither written deeds nor bring evidence of precedent or custom, he suffers as a trespasser. Apply this to the case before us, and will any one say, that, in order to justify a war for such a practice, we ought not to produce something in *proof* of our right?—I am for giving up no *naval right* of England; and, if any one will show me any *treaty*, any *declaration* of any power, and *recognition*, any *maxim* of any writer upon public law, or, any *custom* or *precedent*, of any power in the whole world, to justify our impressment of persons on board of neutral ships on the high seas, I will say, that our last shot ought to be fired, rather than cease our practice of impressment.—Can I say more? Can I go further? Will justice or reason allow me to go further than this? The Americans will say, that I go much too far; but I am quite Englishman enough to go this length.—Further, however, I will not go, call me what the hirelings will.—Is it not a little too much in this writer to talk about *concessions* as demanded by America? She asks (I repeat it for about the hundredth time) for *no concessions*. She says we are trespassing upon her, and we, without any attempt to *prove* that we are not trespassing, accuse her of

demanding concessions, because she asks us to *cease what she deems a trespass*.—I really, upon no point ever observed these prints more base and impudent than they are upon this. It is so plain a case. America complains of a most injurious trespass; we call it the exercise of a *right*; she replies, *prove your right*; and we rejoin by accusing her of *demanding concessions*.—However, she is now, it seems, to be *punished*.—That word will go backwards down the throat of those who have made use of it.—“*Punishment*” is to *precede* any peace with her. Poor, foolish wretch, who has written, or dictated, this paragraph! She is to be *punished* and she is to *retract*, before we negotiate a peace with her!—I beg the reader to bear this threat in his mind. Whether he does or not, it will not be soon forgotten in America, where, we may be well assured, that the bombarding, or burning, of a few towns, will have no other effect than that of rendering the contest more bitter, and of completing the commercial separation of the two countries. Perhaps amongst the things the most wished for by the bitterest enemies of England in America, is the burning of a sea-port or two. The loss would be trifling in comparison with the advantage to those who wish to cut the two countries asunder for ever.—“*Fear!*” “*Alarm!*” What alarm are they in? Those who know them, know how small a sacrifice the knocking down a town would be. The country is a country of plenty. There is more food than the people want. It is not, as in Russia, where famine follows war. To be sure, the inhabitants of the towns which are in danger must experience alarm; but what has this to do with the whole country; and what *gain* will it be to us? We shall have expended some scores of thousands of pounds in the undertaking, and shall have enemies for ever of many who were not our enemies before.—In the mean while, whatever this writer may say about the *loan* in America, ships of war will be built; a navy will grow up; seamen will be formed in great numbers; and, let peace take place whenever it may, we shall have created a formidable rival on the ocean.—Nor are we to suppose, if the war continue, that a closer connexion will not take place *between America and France*. Hitherto the war, on our part, has not had that effect. The American government, as if to give the lie to our insolent writers, has formed no connexion

at all with France; but, is it likely, that, if the war continue, and the desire of revenge increase, some connexion will not be formed with France? With whom is America to ally herself but with our enemy who has ships in abundance, which she has not, and who only wants just those very sailors of which she has too many? This would give her a navy at once without a loan; or, which would be better for her, the *use of a navy* during war, without the encumbrance of it during peace.—Would these spiteful and silly writers like to see Decatur and Hull and Bainbridge on board of French ships of the line? Would they like to see a fleet of nine or ten sail, manned with the same sort of stuff that fired on the Java from the Constitution?—My opinion is, that, if the war continue another year, they will see this; and yet, they have the audacity, or the stupidity, to say, in print, that they hope the mediation of Russia will be rejected by our ministers!—It has always been my fear, and I long before the war expressed it, that it would produce a connexion of this kind with France; and, if such connexion has not already taken place, it has, perhaps, been owing solely to the fear of giving a handle to the English party in the States. If, however, we carry on a war of bombardment, that party will, in a short time, have no weight at all; and, the thirst for revenge will produce that, which, under the influence of less hostile passions, might still have remained an object of jealousy. To see a fleet, under the allied banners of France and America, would be to me a most fearful object. I am convinced it would present greater dangers to us than we have ever yet had to contemplate; and, therefore, I read with indignation and abhorrence all these endeavours of English writers to exasperate the people of America.—I have never believed, that the crews of the ships, by which our frigates have been beaten were British sailors; I have always believed them to have been native Americans, and I still believe it. But, if, as our hired writers have asserted, they were our own countrymen, what is to hinder the ships of *France* to be manned in the same way? The British sailors, who are now, if there be any, fighting against their own country in American ships, will, of course, be as ready to follow their commanders into French ships; and, if that were to be the case, this war for the practice of impressment would have answered a most serious

end indeed.—By a stroke of address not without a precedent in the history of our cabinet, we have got into a war with America upon the worst possible ground for us. We talk about the maintenance of our *maritime rights*; and this does very well with the people at large. “What!” say they, “America want to rob us of our *maritime rights*!” But, what is this right? Suppose it, for argument’s sake, to be a right, *what is it?* It is the right of *impressing* people in American ships on the High Seas. But, still to narrow it; it is the maritime right of *impressing*; and *impressing whom?* Why, *British Seamen?*—One would think, that this should have been the last ground on which to make, or meet, a war. It is utterly impossible to divest oneself of the idea which this conveys; and equally impossible not to perceive the effect which must be produced by it in the sailor’s mind.—For, either our navy does contain considerable numbers of seamen who wish to seek and find shelter under the American flag, or it does not. If it does not, why go to war for this right of impressing them? If it does, how must these same seamen feel as to the cause in which they are engaged?—I fancy this is a dilemma that would hamper almost any of the partisans of the American war.—I have always been disposed to believe, notwithstanding the assertions to the contrary, that our seamen have not gone over to the Americans in any considerable number; but, if, unhappily, I am deceived, I am quite sure that this war will have a strong tendency to aggravate the evil.

PARLIAMENTARY REFORM.—“Mr. CANNING,” says the parliamentary report of the 17th instant, “presented a Petition signed by 6,000 of the inhabitants of Liverpool, *with the contents of which he said he did not agree*, lamenting the grievances of the country, the protraction of the war, the decay and ruin of our manufactures, and ascribing these evils to the defective state of Parliamentary Representation, and proposing, as the most effectual remedy, the shortening the duration of Parliaments, the extension of the elective franchise, and the exclusion of placemen and pensioners from seats in that House. The Petition was read, and ordered to lie upon the table.”—These petitions are, it seems, now coming in. It is in vain for the people to complain of taxes, of

war, or of any grievance, unless they call for a reform of the parliament. To the want of this, and not to any other cause, we owe *all* that we have to complain of and to lament. Every evil may be traced to this source, and while it continues to flow, every evil will exist.—To hear the Whigs talk about a *change of ministry* is disgusting. We have seen that tried, over and over again. We have had, within the last 13 years, all the great talkers in place; and what good have they done us? They do not appear so much as to have thought of any thing for our relief.—I must confess, that, when I hear of people complaining and whining under the burdens that are laid upon them, and yet say not a word about a removal of the cause, they are objects of my contempt rather than of my pity. They smart under the Property Tax, they writhe at the paying of a fine to the Local Militia; but, tell them, that the remedy is a reform of the parliament, and they but too often turn from you.—Let them smart then; let them writhe. If they will not ask for the only effectual and constitutional remedy, let them suffer in silence.—The old cheat of a change of ministry is, however, now become too stale to deceive any body. There is no man will now say, that he wishes for such a thing, unless he be to have a place or profit of some sort in consequence of it. The Whigs do now-and-then make a little effort to keep up the delusion, but the figure they cut only excites pity.—They are now by far the worst set of the two. They first betrayed the people, and then became their most bitter enemies.—They dread a reform of parliament much more, I believe, than their opponents; so that, now there is nothing called party which pretends to wish for a reform. The people are left to themselves, and their way to proceed is to present petitions. That is all they can do.—It is, at this time of day, quite useless to attempt to enter into the reasons for reform. They are all well known. They are felt by every man in the kingdom. The question is not, whether the measure *ought* to be adopted; but, solely what the people ought to do to bring about its adoption. Whether they ought to leave *events* to work the cure; or to endeavour, by their own constitutional exertions, to hasten it. I am for the latter, and, therefore, am glad to see so respectable a petition from Liverpool,
WM. COBBETT,

Botley, 19th May, 1813.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

NORTHERN WAR.

(Continued from page 736.)

The first van-guard came up with the enemy near Danegkow, and after a brisk cannonade forced them to quit that place, with a considerable loss; whereupon I caused the corps of Lieutenant-General Von York, and that of Lieutenant-General Von Berg to follow the van-guard, which were already engaged, and make a vigorous attack on the enemy. — Generals Von Borstell and Bulow did the same on their side, the first advancing to Echdenuck, the latter to Vehlitz, which places were in the enemy's possession, but who was dislodged from thence by the valour of our troops. — The resistance of the enemy, who had the advantage of the ground, was every where very obstinate; but, nevertheless, he was forced at all points to yield to the bravery of our troops, and it was only by the darkness coming on that an end was put to the engagement, and we were prevented from following up this glorious victory. I cannot sufficiently express to your Excellency my approbation of the Imperial Russian and Royal Prussian troops. The Lithuanian regiment of dragoons, and two squadrons of the Body regiment of Russians, cut an enemy's regiment of cavalry totally to pieces, or made prisoners or dispersed it. The same fate attended a second regiment of the enemy's cavalry, by the Grodno Hussars. The Tirailleurs of the brave Pomeranian battalion of grenadiers took a field-piece with horses from the enemy, and in the whole six powder waggons were taken, and we made 27 officers and 900 privates prisoners. The General of Division Grenier, and General Gruindler were wounded. The enemy's loss certainly amounts to 2,000 in killed and wounded. — On our side one officer was killed, and seven wounded; we had 560 privates killed or wounded. The enemy did not take a single man of ours, to keep with him; one Cossack was made prisoner, but he made his escape, and even brought a horse along with him. On the 6th, towards noon, I again sent a detachment of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, in search of the enemy, who had drawn off from all points in the course of the night, but this proved in vain, as on his retreat to Magdeburgh he had quitted the defiles to Wahlitz and Alten Cluss, and had cut off all the bridges. —

I am at present engaged in causing entrenchments to be thrown up at Cluss, Konegsborn, and other points, in order to enable Lieutenant-General Von Bulow, with the greater security to blockade Magdeburgh on this side.

(Signed) F. D. AUVRAY,
Imperial Russian Maj.-Gen. and Chief
of the General Staff, in the name of
Count Wittgenstein.

Konigsberg, March 12.

Our paper contains the following

DECLARATION.

We, the undersigned Officers from the Royal Bavarian, Saxon, Westphalian, and Grand Ducal Frankfort services, who have joined the German Legion, hold ourselves obliged, as men of honour, and with due respect, love, and confidence, publicly to lay before our Princes and native country, the motives which have induced us to take this step. — We are Germans. This single word includes every thing. For a series of years past, we could only sigh for our country, without being able to save her. At length the moment is arrived, when Germany can raise her depressed neck, when our hopes are more raised than ever of throwing off the slavish yoke of France. Victorious Russian armies pursue the enemy from river to river; the Prussian eagle strikes her mighty wings; numberless volunteers hasten to the Prussian standard; every where, even in those parts where the enemy still keeps his footing, a general spirit is rising, which promises to reconquer Germany's lost honour and liberty. Fathers themselves bring their sons—women their jewels; and even the poorest contribute their mite: and we, men of Germany, shall we remain unconcerned spectators? or even, perhaps, in a foreign service, assist in laying our native country again in chains?—Never, never!—Whosoever shall now fight against his brethren is in our eyes a traitor to his native country! Whosoever will not fight for her, neglects his most sacred duty! for we were German citizens before we were soldiers: we never could enter into a compact for shedding the blood of our brethren on our maternal soil, to quench the thirst of strangers with it; neither, truly, have our noble Princes intended it! they have been obliged to submit to superior power; they have been forced to tear their own entrails. We are, therefore, convinced that our revered Princes will themselves approve the

Discounts $\frac{1}{4}$



step we have taken, although their tongues may as yet be chained; we are assured, that we are acting beforehand with their secret wishes as we arm ourselves for their independence; and should there be one amongst them who thinks otherwise, will posterity denominate him a German Prince?

—We do not live in times that can be measured by a common scale—we live in times of bitter, general distress, which knows no other law than that of firmly joining for speedy assistance. That, and that only, is now the law. Let every true German search his bosom, and ask himself if it be otherwise?—No personal necessity has brought us under the standards of the German Legion; we are led to it only by the sense of honour, and the love of our country. We will not fight with Frenchmen against Germans; but with Germans for Germans. Should there be German Princes, soldiers, or citizens, capable of denying such motives, we would still calmly fulfil our most sacred duty, appeal to posterity, and from her expect the crown of renown, due to the faithful sons of their country. Posterity will not ask in what service we were engaged, but for what cause we fought, whether for Germany and humanity, or for France and tyranny?

(Signed) V. Oelhafen, Wallstab, v. Boxberg, Hilenbrand, v. Glauhofen, v. Berge, Lehmann, v. Thomas, v. Hann, v. Hohenheichen, B. v. Waldmannsdorff, Neidhard, Schleiter, Trott, v. Beyer, Schneiders.

Konigsberg, March 12, 1813.

Rostock, March 23.

His Serene Highness the Duke of Mecklenburgh has transmitted the following Ordinance to the Commandants of Rostock and Wismar:

“As we herewith recall all the hitherto existing Ordinances against maritime commerce, we direct the Commandant, Major Burlow, immediately on receipt of these patents, not only to take off such and all other embargoes, but likewise to discontinue the Military Bureau established for that purpose, and also to inform the merchants there of this measure, that they may know the commerce by sea is open, and free to all nations, such only excepted as are engaged in war with Russia.

(Signed) FREDERICK FRANCIS.

“Ludwigsluts, March 23, 1813.”

EDICT concerning the abolition of the so called Continental System, and the Du-

ties hereafter to be collected on Goods hereafter to be imported by sea.

“We Frederick William, by the Grace of God, King of Prussia, &c. &c.

“Having found cause to withdraw ourselves from the alliance with France, we likewise deem it necessary herewith to declare, that all restraints under which commerce, even in our States, has hitherto suffered in consequence of the so denominated Continental System; and the ships and goods of all friendly and neutral nations shall be freely permitted to enter in our harbours and territories without any exception or difference. All French goods, either produce or manufactures, are on the contrary herewith totally prohibited, not only for use, but likewise to pass through our territories, or those occupied by our armies.

—The so denominated Continental Impost is taken off, and exclusive of the consumption excise to be especially paid on foreign goods entered inwards by sea, for home consumption, there shall be levied the heretofore established moderate impost and transit duty, as it was previous to the establishment of the Continental impost in the year 1810, which duty shall be collected on the gross weight, but only continue so long as the increased expenses arising from the war carrying on for the liberation of Germany, shall render it necessary.—

We give to our Privy Counsellor of State, and Chief of the Inward Customs Department, M. Von Heydebreck, full and uncontrolled power to make what further alterations he may see fit, in the whole of the forementioned impost, and to put them in a proper proportion; as likewise to reduce, or entirely take off, at his own judgment, the consumption excise on such articles, where the collecting the full consumption excise, together with the impost duty, would fall too heavy on the home consumption.—All our public officers whom this matter concerns have to pay due attention hereto.—Given at Breslaw the 20th March, 1813.

“(Signed) FREDERICK WILLIAM. HARDENBERG.”

NORTHERN WAR.—The following papers have been published at Paris, under their respective dates.

MAY 7.—Her Majesty the Empress and Queen has received the following intelligence respecting the situation of the Army on the 1st of May.

The Emperor had removed his head-

quarters to Weissenfels; the Viceroy his to Mersebourg; General Maison had entered Halle; the Duke of Ragusa had his head-quarters at Naumberg; Count Bertrand was at Stohsen; the Duke of Reggio had his head-quarters at Jeule.—There was much rain on the 30th April. On the 1st May the weather was better.—Three bridges had been thrown across the Saale at Weissenfels; campaign works had been commenced at Naumberg, and three bridges thrown over the Saale.—Fifteen grenadiers of the 13th line being between Jena and Saalfeld, were surrounded by 95 Prussian hussars. The Commandant, who was a Colonel, advanced, saying, "Frenchmen, surrender."—The Serjeant killed him. The other grenadiers formed in a platoon, killed seven Prussians, and the hussars went off faster than they came.—The different parts of the old guard are collected at Weissenfels; the General of Division Roguet commands them. The Emperor visited all the advanced posts, notwithstanding the badness of the weather. His Majesty enjoys excellent health.—The first blow with the sabre which was given at the renewing of this campaign at Weimar, took off the ears of Major-General Blucher's son. It was by a Marechal des Loges, of the 10th Hussars, that this blow was given. The inhabitants of Weimar remark, that the first sabre blow given in the campaign of 1806 at Saalfeld, and which killed Prince Louis of Prussia, was given by a Marechal des Loges of this same regiment.

Her Majesty the Empress and Queen has received the following intelligence of the situation of the Army at 9 in the morning of the 2d May:—On the 1st May the Emperor mounted on horseback at 9 in the morning with the Prince of Moskwa. General Souham's division put itself in motion towards the fine plain which commences upon the heights of Wiessenfels, and extends to the Elbe. This division was formed in four squares, of four battalions each, each square of 500 toises from the other, and having four pieces of cannon. Behind the squares was placed General Laboissier's brigade of cavalry, under the orders of Count Valmy, who had just arrived. Gerard and Marchant's divisions came behind in echelons, and formed in the same manner as Souham's division. Marshal the Duke of Istria was on the right with all the cavalry of the guard.—At eleven o'clock, this disposition made, the Prince of Moskwa, in presence of a cloud of the enemy's cavalry,

which covered the plain, put himself in motion upon the defile of Puserna. He seized upon several villages without giving a blow. The enemy occupied upon the heights of the defile one of the finest positions that can be seen; he had 6 pieces of cannon, and presented three lines of cavalry.—The first square passed the defile at the *pas de charge*, amidst cries of "Vive l'Empereur!" long continued throughout the line. It seized upon the height. The four squares of Souham's division passed the defile. Two other divisions of cavalry then came to reinforce the enemy with 20 pieces of cannon. The cannonade became heavy. The enemy every where gave ground. Durham's division marched upon Lutzen; Girard took the direction of the Pegau road. The Emperor wishing to reinforce the batteries of this last division, sent 12 pieces of the Guard, under the orders of his Aid-de-Camp, General Drouet, and this reinforcement performed prodigies. The ranks of the enemy's cavalry were overthrown by grape shot. At the same moment the Viceroy debouched from Mersebourg, with the 11th corps, commanded by the Duke of Tarente, and the 5th commanded by General Lauriston. General Lauriston's corps was on the left, upon the high road from Mersebourg to the Leipzig; that of the Duke of Tarente, where the Viceroy was, on the right. The Viceroy hearing the brisk cannonade which took place at Lutzen, made a movement to the right, and the Emperor almost at the same moment, at the village of Lutzen. Marchant's division, and in succession Brenier and Recard's divisions, passed the defile; but the business was settled when they entered in line; 15,000 cavalry were therefore driven from these places, by nearly the same number of infantry. It was General Winzingerode who commanded these three divisions; one of which was General Lanskoi's. The enemy displayed but one division of infantry. Become more prudent by the battle of Weissenfels, and astonished at the fine order and sang froid of our march, the enemy dared not approach any part of our infantry, and was crushed by our grape shot. Our loss amounted to 33 men killed, 55 wounded, one a chief of battalion. This loss may be considered as extremely trifling, in comparison to that of the enemy, who had 3 Colonels, 30 Officers, and 400 men killed or wounded, besides a great number of horses; but by one of those fatalities with which the history of war is full, the first cannon ball which was fired on this day, struck the

wrist of the Duke of Istria, pierced his groin, and killed him instantly. He had advanced 516 paces from the side of the Tirallieurs in order to reconnoitre the plain. This Marshal, who has a just title to be named brave and just, was equally commendable for his military coup d'œil, his great experience in managing cavalry, as by his civil qualities and his attachment to the Emperor. His death upon the field of honour is the more worthy of envy; it was so rapid, that it must have been without pain. There are few losses which could have more sensibly affected the Emperor's heart; the army and all France will partake of the grief his Majesty felt.—The Duke of Istria, since the first Italian campaign,—that is, for sixteen years,—had always, in different ranks, commanded the Emperor's Guard, which followed him in all his campaigns and battles.—The sang froid, good will, and intrepidity of the young soldiers, astonished the veterans and all the officers. It is a proof of the saying, "That to souls well born, virtue does not wait a number of years." His Majesty had, on the night between the 1st and 2d of May, his head-quarters at Lutzen; the Viceroy at Markranstidt; the Prince of Moskwa his at Karga; and the Duke of Ragusa his at Poserua. General Bertrand was at Stohssen; the Duke of Reggio in march upon Naumbourg.—At Danzig the garrison has obtained great advantages, and made so successful a sortie, that it took prisoners a corps of 3,000 Russians.—The garrison of Wittenberg also appears to have distinguished itself, and to have, in a sortie, caused considerable injury to the enemy.—A letter, in ciphers, which has this moment arrived from the garrison of Glogau, is conceived in these terms:

"All goes on well, the Russians have made several attempts upon this place; they have been always repulsed with much loss; 3 or 4,000 men blockade us, sometimes less, sometimes more. The trenches have been opened; during two days the fire from our batteries forced them to abandon their project.

"GENERAL LAPLANE."

"Glogau, 13 April, 1813."

Her Majesty the Empress and Queen Regent has received news from the Emperor from the field of battle, two leagues in advance of Lutzen, the 2d May, at ten o'clock in the evening, at the moment when the Emperor had thrown himself upon a bed to take a few hours' sleep.

The Emperor informs her Majesty that he has gained the most complete victory over the Russian and Prussian army, commanded by the Emperor Alexander and King of Prussia in person; that in this battle more than 150,000 cannon-balls had been fired; that the troops covered themselves with glory in it, and that, notwithstanding the immense inferiority of cavalry which the French army had, that good-will and courage inherent in Frenchmen, supplied every thing. The enemy was briskly pursued.

—No Marshal, no person composing the Household of the Emperor, was killed or wounded.—The joy of these countries, at being delivered from the Cossacks, is indescribable. The inhabitants speak with contempt of all the proclamations and attempts which have been made to tempt them to insurrection.—The Russian and Prussian army was composed of the corps of the Prussian Generals York, Blücher, and Bülow, and those of the Russian Generals Wittgenstein, Winzingerode, Miloradowitsch, and Tormazow. The Russian and Prussian guards were likewise there. The Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, the Prince Royal of Prussia, and all the Princes of the Royal Household of Prussia were in the battle.—The combined Russian and Prussian army is estimated at from 150 to 200,000 men. All the Russian Cuirassiers were there, and suffered greatly.

Her Majesty the Empress Queen and Regent has received the following intelligence of the situation of the armies on the 4th of May, in the evening:

The Emperor's head-quarters were, on the evening of the 4th, at Bornä; those of the Viceroy at Kolditz; those of General Count Bertrand at Frothburg; those of General Count Lauriston at Malbus; those of the Prince of Moskwa at Leipsick; and those of the Duke of Reggio at Zeitz.—The enemy is retiring on Dresden in the greatest disorder, and by every road.—All the villages in the road of the army, are found full of Russian and Prussian wounded.—The Major-General Prince of Neufchatel has given orders for the interment of the Prince of Mecklenburg Strelitz, on the morning of the 4th, at Pegau, and with all the honours due to his rank.

—In the battle of the 2d, General Dumontier, who commands the division of the Young Guards, sustained the reputation which he had already acquired in the preceding campaigns. He bestows high praise on his division. The General of Division Brunier was wounded. The General of

Brigade Chemieubau and Grillot were wounded, and have suffered amputation.

—By a calculation made of the number of cannon-shot fired in the battle, it is found to be less considerable than was at first believed—only 39,500 cannon-shot were fired. At the battle of Moskwa there were fired 50,000.

MAY 8.—*Her Majesty the Empress Queen and Regent has received the following intelligence from the army:*

The battles of Weissenfels and Lutzen were but the prelude of events of the highest importance. The Emperor Alexander and the King of Prussia, who had arrived at Dresden with their forces the latter end of April, learning that the French Army had debouched from the Thuringe, adopted the plan of giving battle in the plains of Lutzen, and put themselves in motion to occupy the position, but they were anticipated by the rapidity of the movements of the French Army. They, however, persisted in their projects, and resolved to attack the army, to drive it from the positions it had taken. The position of the French Army was on the 2d May, at nine in the morning, as follows:—The left of the army leaned upon the Elster; it was formed by the Viceroy, having under his orders the 5th and 11th corps. The centre was commanded by the Prince of Moskwa in the village of Kara. The Emperor, with the young and old guard, was at Lutzen; the Duke of Ragusa was at the defile of Poserna, and formed the right with his three divisions. General Bertrand, commanding the 4th corps, marched to proceed to this defile. The enemy debouched, and passed the Elster at the bridges of Zwenkaw, Pegou and Zuts. The Emperor, hoping to anticipate him in his movement, and thinking that he could not attack till the 5th, advanced.—General Lauriston, whose corps formed the extreme of the left, was ordered to march upon Leipzig, in order to disconcert the enemy's projects, and place the French Army, for the day of the 3d, quite different to that upon which the enemy had calculated to find it, and in which it was in reality on the 2d, and by this means carry confusion and disorder into their columns. —At nine in the morning, his Majesty having heard a cannonade from the side of Leipzig, proceeded there at full gallop. The enemy defended the small village of Lestenu, and the bridges in advance of Leipzig. His Majesty only waited the moment when these last positions should be carried, to put in motion all his army

in that direction, make a pivot on Leipzig, pass to the right bank of the Elster, and take the enemy *a revers*, but at ten o'clock the enemy's army debouched towards Kara, upon several columns, extremely deep; the horizon was obscured by them. The enemy presented forces which appeared immense.—The Emperor immediately made his dispositions. The Viceroy received orders to march upon the left of the Prince of Moskwa, but three hours were necessary to execute this movement. The Prince of Moskwa placed his men under arms, and with five divisions supported the battle, which at the end of half an hour became terrible. His Majesty himself marched at the head of the last guard, behind the centre of the army, supporting the right of the Prince of Moskwa. The Duke of Ragusa, with his three divisions, occupied the extreme right. General Bertrand had orders to debouche upon the enemy's rear, at the moment in which the line should be most strongly engaged. Fortune was pleased to crown with the most brilliant success all these dispositions. The enemy, who appeared certain of the success of his enterprise, marched to reach our right, and gain the road of Weissenfels. General Compans, General of Battle of the first merit, at the head of the 1st division of the Duke of Ragusa, stopped him quite short. The marine regiments supported several charges with sang froid, and covered the field of battle with the best of the enemy's cavalry. But the great efforts of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, were directed against the centre. Four of the Prince of Moskwa's five divisions were already engaged. The village of Kara was taken and retaken several times. This village remained in the enemy's power, Count De Lobeau directed General Recard to retake the village. It was retaken.—The battle embraced a line of two leagues, covered with fire, smoke, and clouds of dust. The Prince of Moskwa, General Souham, and General Girard were every where, making head against every thing. General Girard was wounded with several balls. General Girard wished to remain on the field of battle; he declared his wish to die commanding and directing his troops, as the moment had arrived for all Frenchmen who possessed any heart, to conquer or perish. However, we began to perceive from afar the dust and first fire of General Bertrand's corps; at the same moment the Viceroy entered in line upon the left, and the Duke of Tarente attacked the

enemy's reserve, and reached the village upon which the enemy rested his right. At this moment the enemy redoubled his efforts upon the centre; the village of Kara was again taken, our centre gave way, some battalions fled, but these valorous youths, at the sight of the Emperor, rallied, exclaiming "Vive l'Empereur." His Majesty judged, that the critical moment, which decides the gaining or losing of battles, had arrived: there was no longer a moment to be lost. The Emperor ordered the Duke of Treviso to march with sixteen battalions of the young guard to the village of Kara, overthrow the enemy, retake the village, and overcome any thing he met with there. At the same moment, his Majesty ordered his Aid-de-Camp, General Drouet, an artillery officer of the greatest distinction, to form a battery of 80 pieces, and place it in advance of the old guard, which was formed in echelons, as four redoubts to support the centre, all our cavalry ranged in battle behind. General Dulauly, Drouet, and Devaux, set out at full gallop with their 80 pieces of artillery in the same group.—The fire became dreadful—the enemy gave way on all sides. The Duke of Treviso obtained possession of the village of Kara, overthrew the enemy, and continued to advance, beating the charge. The enemy's cavalry, infantry, and artillery, all retreated.

MAY 9.—*The Empress Queen and Regent has received the following intelligence from the army, dated 3d May, nine o'clock in the evening.*

The Emperor, at the break of day of the 3d traversed the field of battle. At ten o'clock he put himself in motion to follow the enemy. His head-quarters were on the 3d, in the evening, at Pegau. The Viceroy had his at Wickstanden, half way between Pegau and Borna. Count Lauriston, whose corps had taken no part in the battle, had set out from Leipsic to march upon Zwernkaw, where he had arrived. The Duke of Ragusa had passed the Elster, at the village of Lutzkourtz, and Count Bertrand had passed it, at the village of Gredel. The Prince of Moskwa's was in a position upon the field of battle. The Duke of Reggio, from Naumburg, was marching upon Zeist.—The Emperor of Russia and King of Prussia passed through Pegau on the night of the 2d, arrived in the village of Loberstadt, at 11 o'clock at night. They reposed there four hours, and set out on the 3d at three in the morn-

ing, in the direction of Borna.—The enemy had not recovered from his astonishment, at finding himself beaten in so large a plain, by an army so greatly inferior in cavalry. Several Colonels and superior officers, taken prisoners, assure us, that at the enemy's head-quarters they had not learned of the Emperor's presence at the army, till the battle had commenced; they believed the Emperor to be at Erfurt.—As always happens in similar circumstances, the Prussians accuse the Russians of not having supported them. The Russians accuse the Prussians of not having fought well. The greatest confusion prevails in their retreat. Several of those pretended volunteers, which were raised in Prussia, have been made prisoners: they cause pity. All declare that they were enrolled by force, and on pain of seeing their property and families confiscated. The country people say that a Prince of Hesse Hombourg was killed, that several Russian and Prussian Generals had been killed or wounded. The Prince of Mecklenburg Strelitz is also reported to be killed; but all this intelligence is yet but reports of the country.—General Bonnet, commanding one of the Duke of Ragusa's divisions, received orders to make a movement upon Kara by his left, to support the success of the centre. He sustained several charges of cavalry. General Count Berthier advanced, and entered the line. It was in vain that the enemy's cavalry capered about his squares; his march was not relaxed by it. To rejoin him the sooner, the Emperor ordered a change of direction, by pivoting on Kara. The whole of the line made a change in front the right wing foremost. The enemy then fled, and we pursued him for a league and a half. We soon arrived at the heights which had been occupied by the Emperor Alexander, the King of Prussia, and the Brandenburg Family, during the battle. An Officer, who was taken prisoner, then informed us of this circumstance. We have made several thousand prisoners. The number could not be more considerable, considering the inferiority of our cavalry, and the desire which the Emperor had shewn of sparing it.—At the commencement of the battle, the Emperor said to the troops—"It is a battle like those in Egypt—a good infantry, supported by artillery, should be sufficient for it."—General Gouné, Chief of the Prince of Moskwa's staff was killed; a death worthy of so good a soldier. Our loss amounts

to 10,000 men, killed and wounded; that of the enemy may be estimated at 25 or 30,000 men. The Royal Prussian Guards are destroyed. The Emperor of Russia's guards have suffered considerably, and the two divisions of 10 regiments of Russian cuirassiers are destroyed. His Majesty cannot pay a sufficient eulogium to the good-will, courage, and intrepidity of the army. Our young soldiers took no danger into consideration. They have in this great instance shewn all the nobleness of the French blood.

The Chief of the Staff, in his relation, mentions the fine actions which have shed a lustre on this brilliant day, which, like a clap of thunder, has pulverized the chimerical hopes, and all the calculations for the destruction and dismemberment of the Empire. The cloudy train collected by the Cabinet of St. James's, during a whole winter, are in an instant destroyed, like the gordian knot by the sword of Alexander.—The Prince of Hesse Homburg was killed. The prisoners say that the young Prince Royal of Prussia is wounded, and the Prince of Mecklenburgh Swartz killed. The infantry of the old guards, only six battalions of which have arrived, by their presence kept up the affair with that sang-froid by which they are characterized. They did not fire a musket; half the army was not engaged; for the four divisions of General Lauriston's corps have done nothing but occupy Leipsic, the three divisions of the Duke of Reggio, were still two days' march from the field of battle; Count Bertrand did not charge but with one of his divisions, and so lightly that it did not lose 50 men, his second and third divisions did not charge at all. The second division of the young guards, commanded by General Barrors, were still four days' march off, and it was the same with half the old guards, commanded by General Decowe, who was then only at Erfurt.—The Duke of Belluno's corps was also three days march from the field of battle; General Sebastiani's corps of cavalry, with the three divisions of the Prince of Echmuhl, was on the banks of the Elbe. The allied army 150 to 200,000 men strong, commanded by the two Sovereigns, with a great number of the Princes of the house of Prussia, has been thus defeated and put to route, by less than the half of the French army. The field of battle presented the most affecting spectacle; the young soldiers, on seeing the Emperor, forgot their sufferings, exclaimed, "Vive l'Empereur."—"It is now

twenty years," said the Emperor, "that I have commanded the French armies, but I have never yet witnessed so much bravery and devotion!" Europe would at length be at peace, if the Sovereigns and the Ministers who direct their Cabinets could have been present on the field of battle. They would give up all hopes of causing the star of France to set, and perceive that those Counsellors who wish to dismember the French Empire, and humble the Emperor, are preparing the ruin of their Sovereigns.

MAY 10.—*Her Majesty the Empress Queen and Regent, has received the following intelligence of the situation of the armies on the evening of the 5th.*

The Emperor's head-quarters were at Colditz, those of the Viceroy at Kara, those of the Duke of Ragusa behind Colditz; General Lauriston at Wartzen, of the Prince of Moskwa at Leipsic, those of the Duke of Reggio at Altenburg, and of General Bertrand at Rochlitz.—The Viceroy arrived before Colditz on the 5th, at nine o'clock in the morning. The bridge was cut, and some columns of infantry and cavalry, with artillery, opposed our passage. The Viceroy with his division, marched towards a ford, which is on the left, passed the river, and gained the village of Komulian, where he caused a battery of 20 pieces of artillery to be placed; the enemy then evacuated the town of Colditz in the greatest disorder, and in defiling were exposed to the fire of our 20 pieces of artillery. The Viceroy pursued the enemy with vigour; it was the remainder of the Prussian army, about 20 or 25,000 men strong, which took their direction partly to Leissing and partly to Gersdorff. Having arrived at Gersdorff, the Russian troops passed across a reserve, which occupied this position; it was the Russian corps of Miloradowitsch, composed of two divisions, amounting to nearly 8,000 men under arms. The Russian regiments, consisting of only two battalions of four companies each, and the companies not consisting of more than 150 men, but having at present not more than 100 men each under arms, which does not amount to more than 7 or 800 men per regiment. These two divisions of Miloradowitsch had arrived at the moment the battle was finished, and could not take any part in it.—Immediately on the 36th division having rejoined the 35th, the Viceroy gave orders to the Duke of Tarentum to form the two divisions in three columns, and draw the enemy from his positions. The attack was brisk, our brave fellows precipitated them-

selves on the Russians, penetrated and drove them towards Harta. In this engagement we had 5 or 600 wounded, and took 1,000 prisoners. The enemy lost 2,000 men on this day.—General Bertrand being arrived at Rochlitz, took there several convoys of sick and wounded, some baggage, and made some prisoners. Upwards of 1,200 carriages, with wounded, had passed by this route. The King of Prussia and the Emperor Alexander had slept at Rochlitz.—An Adjutant, sub-officer of the 17th division, and who had been made prisoner in the battle of the 2d, made his escape, and gave information that the enemy had sustained great losses, and was retiring in the utmost disorder; that during the battle the Russians and Prussians kept their colours in reserve, which was the cause why we could not take any of them; that they have taken 102 prisoners from us, among whom are 4 officers; that these prisoners were conducted to the rear, under the guard of the detachment which had charge of the colours; that the Prussians treated their prisoners very ill; that two prisoners not being able to walk, through extreme fatigue, they ran them through the body with their swords; that the astonishment of the Russians and Prussians at having found such a numerous army, and so well disciplined and supplied with every thing, was extreme; that there existed a misunderstanding between them, and that they mutually accused each other as being the cause of their losses.—General Count Lauriston has put himself in march from Wurtzen on the high road to Dresden.—The Prince of Moskwa has marched towards the Elbe, to raise the blockade of General Theilman, who commands at Torgau, take his position at that point, and raise the blockade of Wittenberg. It appears that this latter place has made a fine defence, and repulsed several attacks which have cost the enemy very dear.—The Prussians state that the Emperor Alexander, finding the battle lost, rode through the Russian lines to animate the soldiers, by exclaiming, "Courage! God is with us." They add, that the Prussian General Blucher is wounded, and that there were five other Prussian Generals of Division or Brigade either killed or wounded.

AMERICAN WAR.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Lawrence, of the United States Sloop of War Hornet, to the Secretary of the Navy.

U. S. Ship Hornet, Holmes' Hole, March 29, 1813.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you of the arrival at this port of the U. S. ship Hornet, under my command, from a cruise of 145 days, and to state to you, that after Commodore Bainbridge left the coast of Brazil (Jan. 6), I continued off the harbour of St. Salvador, blockading the Bonne Citoyenne, until the 24th, when the Montague, 74, hove in sight, and chased me into the harbour; but night coming on, I wore and stood out to the southward.—Knowing that she had left Rio Janeiro for the express purpose of relieving the Bonne Citoyenne, and the packet (which I had also blockaded for 14 days, and obliged her to send her mail to Rio, in a Portuguese smack), I judged it most prudent to shift my cruising ground, and hauled by the wind to the westward, with the view of cruising off Pernambuco, and on the 4th of February captured the English brig Resolution, of 10 guns, from Rio Janeiro, bound to Maranh, with coffee, &c., and about 23,000 dollars in specie. I took out the money, and set her on fire. I then ran down the coast for Maranh, and cruised there a short time, from thence run off Surinam. After cruising off that coast from the 15th until the 22d of February, without meeting a vessel, I stood for Demarara, with an intention, should I not be fortunate on that station, to run through the West Indies on my way to the United States; but on the 24th, in the morning I discovered a brig to the leeward, to which I gave chase—run into quarter less four, and not having a pilot, was obliged to haul off; the fort at the entrance of Demerara river at this time bearing S. W. distant $2\frac{1}{2}$ leagues. Previous to giving up the chase, I discovered a vessel at anchor, without the bar, with English colours flying, apparently a brig of war. In beating round Carolina Bank, in order to get to her, at half-past three P. M., I discovered another sail on my weather quarter, edging down for us—at 4. 20. she hoisted English colours, at which time we discovered her to be a large man of war brig; beat to quarters, and cleared ship for action, and kept close by the wind, in order, if possible, to get the weather-gauge. At 5. 10. finding I could weather the enemy, I hoisted American colours and tacked. At 5. 25. in passing each other, exchanged broadsides within half pistol shot. Observing the enemy in the act of wearing, I bore up, and received his starboard broadside, run

him close on board on the starboard-quarter, and kept up such a heavy and well-directed fire, that in less than 15 minutes she surrendered (being totally cut to pieces), and hoisted an ensign, union down, from his fore-rigging, as a signal of distress. Shortly after, her mainmast went by the board. Dispatched Lieut. Shobrick on board, who soon returned with her First Lieutenant, who reported her to be His Britannic Majesty's late brig Peacock, commanded by Captain William Peake, who fell in the latter part of the action; that a number of her crew were killed and wounded; and that she was sinking fast, she having then six feet water in her hold. Dispatched the boats immediately for the wounded, and brought both vessels to anchor. Such shot-holes as could be got at were then plugged; guns thrown overboard, and every possible exertion used to keep her afloat, until the prisoners could be removed, by pumping and bailing, but without effect, as she unfortunately sunk in five fathoms and a half water, carrying down 13 of her crew, and three of my brave fellows. Lieutenant Connor and Midshipman Cooper, and the remainder of my men employed in removing the prisoners, with difficulty saved themselves by jumping into a boat that was lying on the booms as she went down. Four men of the 13 mentioned were so fortunate as to gain the foretop, and were afterwards taken off by our boats. Previous to her going down, four of her men took to her stern boat that had been much damaged during the action, who, I sincerely hope, reached the shore. I have not been able to ascertain from her officers the exact number of killed. Captain Peake and four men were found dead on board. The master, one midshipman, carpenter, and captain's clerk, and 29 men wounded, most of them very severely, three of which died of their wounds after being removed, and nine drowned. Our loss was trifling in comparison. John Place, killed; Samuel Coulson and Joseph Dalrymple, slightly wounded; George Goffin and Lewis Todd, severely burnt by the explosion of a cart-ridge. Todd survived only a few days. Our rigging and sails were much cut. One shot through the fore-mast, and the bow-spit slightly injured. Our hull received

little or no damage. — At the time I brought the Peacock to action, the *Espiegle* (the brig mentioned as being at anchor), mounting 16 two-and-thirty pound carronades, and 2 long nines, lay about six miles in-shore of me, and could plainly see the whole of the action. Apprehensive she would beat out to the assistance of her consort, such exertions were used by my officers and crew, and repairing damages, &c.; that by nine o'clock our boats were stowed, a new set of sails bent, and the ship completely ready for action. At two, A. M. got under weigh, and stood by the wind to the northward and westward under easy sail. On mustering next morning, found we had two hundred and seventy-seven souls on board (including the crew of the American brig *Hunter*, of Portland, taken a few days before by the Peacock). — The Peacock was deservedly styled one of the finest vessels of her class in the British Navy. I should judge her to be about the tonnage of the *Hornet*. Her beam was greater by five inches, but her extreme length not so great by four feet. She mounted 16 four-and-twenty-pound carronades, 2 long nines, 1 twelve-pound carronade on her top-gallant fore-castle, as a shifting gun, and one four or six-pounder, and two swivels mounted aft. I find by her quarter-bill that her crew consisted of 134 men, four of whom were absent in a prize. — The cool and determined conduct of my officers and crew during the action, and their almost unexampled exertions afterwards, entitle them to my warmest acknowledgments; and I beg leave most earnestly to recommend them to the notice of Government.

JAMES LAWRENCE.

Hon. Wm. Jones, Secretary of the Navy.

P. S. At the commencement of the action my sailing-master and seven men were absent in a prize, and Lieut. Stewart and six men on the sick-list.

"Head-quarters, Lewiston, March 23.

Sir,—As the Governor of the State of Delaware, and Commander of its military force, I improve the earliest time afforded me since my arrival at this place, of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, directed to the Chief

(To be continued.)